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PRIVATE JOURNAL

KEPT BY

CAPTAIN LEWIS BROWN,

OF THE FIFTH REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY,

WHILE OCCUPYING THE BRITISH OUT-POST

AT

KAHUN.

Printed at the Bombay Government Press.

1841.

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NOTIFICATION.

SECRET DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 29th March 1841.

The Honorable the Governor in Council having recently had under his consideration a Narrative of the proceedings of a detachment of the strength named in the margin, under the command of Captain Lewis Brown, of the 5th Regiment Native Infantry, in retaining possession for a period of nearly five months of the Fort of Kahun in defiance of repeated attempts of the Enemy to dislodge them, has the highest gratification in publicly recording the high sense he entertains of the distinguished services of Captain Brown and the detachment under his command.—In maintaining this post, Captain Brown has reported to Government, that he was most ably seconded by Lieutenant D. Erskine, of the artillery, and by Mr. Assistant Surgeon Glasse, who was in medical charge of the garrison.

140 *Rank and File of the 5th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry and one 12 pounder Howitzer in charge of Lieut. D. Erskine of the Artillery.*

Notwithstanding the critical position in which the garrison was placed, and the privations to which they were exposed, Captain Brown nobly refused to surrender the Fort until the last extremity, and then only, after he had secured for himself and brave comrades, a safe retreat, with all the honors of war. The Governor in Council believes, that there are few instances on record, where under circumstances of such great discouragement, a dangerous and harrassing service, attended by severe privations, has been performed with greater cheerfulness, or with a more zealous devotion to the public service.

In order to testify his admiration of the gallantry, prudence, and perseverance which distinguished the conduct of Captain Brown in the defence of Kahun, and the fidelity and bravery of

the officers and men under his command, the Governor in Council, with the sanction of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, is pleased to direct :—

First.—That in consideration of the honor conferred on the 5th Regiment Native Infantry, by the conduct of the detachment of that corps, in the defence of Kahun, this regiment shall be permitted to have " Kahun" inscribed on their colors, and borne on their appointments.

Second.—That in consideration of the losses of the detachment, arising from want of carriage and other causes, a donation of six months Batta shall be granted to the survivors of the garrison of Kahun, and the heirs of those who fell in it's defence.

Third.—That this order be read at the head of every regiment of the army of this presidency, at a spcecial parade to be held for this purpose.

The Hon'ble the Governor in Council will likewise have great satisfaction in bringing the distinguished services of Captain Brown, and the officers and men who composed the garrison of Kahun, to the favorable notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors.

By order of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council,
J. P. WILLOUGHBY.
Secretary to Government.

With reference to the above notification, the Hon'ble the Governor in Council has much satisfaction in giving publicity to the following Private Journal, which has lately reached him, kept by Captain Brown, of the proceedings of himself and the detachment, under his command, from the 8th April to the 1st October 1840, embracing the period from his arrival at Poolajee, where he assumed charge of the detachment placed at his disposal, for the purpose of forming the garrison of Kahun, to that of his arrival in the plains, on the latter date, after his having, under circumstances so peculiary honorable to himself and those under his orders, maintained possession of that Fort, against the repeated endeavours of the enemy to dislodge him, until they had guaranteed him a safe conduct to the plains.

By order of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council,
J. P. WILLOUGHBY.
Bombay Castle, 10th April 1840. *Secretary to Government.*

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ROUGH NOTES

BY

CAPTAIN LEWIS BROWN,

OF THE 5TH REGIMEMT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY,

OF A TRIP IN THE

MURREE HILLS,

AND

DETENTION IN KAHUN.

Having been appointed to the command of a detachment about to occupy Kahun, a walled town in the Murree hills, I proceeded to Poolajee en route, in company with Lieutenant Clarke, 2d Grenadiers, on the 8th April 1840.—On the morning of the 8th I reached that post, and found the following detachment assembled.

300 Bayonets, 5th Regiment under Ensign Taylor.
2-12 Pr. Howitzers, Lieutenant D. Erskine.
50 Scinde Irregular Horse, Lieut. Clarke.
50 Patan Horsemen.

With this detachment I was to convoy up 600 camels, being supplies for 4 months, and Lieut. Clarke was to return with the empty camels, with an escort of 80 infantry and 50 horse, and bring up 4 months more. I left Sukhur in a great hurry, but on my arrival at Poolajee, was detained in consequence of delays in the commissariat department, until the 2d May. About the 15th April the weather became excessively hot, the thermometer ranging to 112 in my tent, in the middle of the day, the consequence was some sickness in the detachment; Lieutenant Erskine and Ensign Taylor were both attacked with fever, and one subedar died from a "coup de soleil."

April 20th—At the requisition of the political agent I despatched Lieutenant Clarke and his horsemen in the direction of Shapoor, there to be joined by 100 men of the Beelooch Levy, under Lieutenant Vardon, and from thence to proceed S. E. in the direction of the hills, to try and surprize a party

of Culpore Boogties. The Chuppao failed, in consequence of treachery in the guide. The sufferings of the party, from the heat, and want of water, when crossing the desert on their return, were beyond any thing conceivable. The Bellooch Levy alone, left 25 men behind, 3 of whom died.

27th.—Received an express from the brigade major, directing me, in consequence of Erskine's sickness, to order the guns back to Lehree, and proceed with the cavalry and infantry alone to Kahun. Dr. Glasse joined to-day.

29th.—This morning I received such strong reports of the intention of the Murrees to oppose us at the pass of Nufoosk, and again in the Fort, that I immediately, on my own responsibility, made a requisition on Lehree, for one of the guns to be sent back under a native officer. Having been before over the hills, with the detachment under the late Major Billamore, I knew the almost utter impossibility, if opposed, of getting my convoy up safe without artillery.* Erskine having somewhat recovered from the fever, came himself with the gun.

May 2d.—There being some dispute about finding the Patans in provisions on their way up, and not myself thinking they would be much use to me, having been present in November 1839, when they turned their backs on the enemy, without drawing a sword; I at once ordered them back to their quarters, and the commissariat having reported the 4 months supply being all ready, I this morning commenced my march into the hills, leaving behind 1 gun and 50 horse.

Marched 6 miles into the hills direct east; the last 4 miles very heavy for guns, being nothing but the bed of a dry river, with deep sand and pebbles. Encamped close to a delicious stream of water. Wood and grass in abundance, but the heat between the rocks was excessive. Ensign Taylor became too sick to proceed, and returned to head quarters, leaving only one officer (myself,) in charge of 3 companies.

3rd.—Marched on 8 miles, starting at 2 A. M. and arriving at 7. Road very heavy, encamped in bed of river. Forage abundant. Sulphur rocks close by. This was the hottest day I ever remember to have felt in India; the thermometer rising to 116, with a hot wind like a furnance blowing.

4th.—Marched on 7 miles, not getting over more than a mile an hour, the road being so heavy. Water nearly the whole way

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* Note. This was a most fortunate circumstance, in more instances than one, the gun became of double value, and I obtained not only one of the most pleasant and cheerful companions, during our lonely life in Kahun, but a most staunch and able assistant in my difficulties.

which was most acceptable, as the hot wind of yesterday continued during the whole night.—Encamping ground as yesterday.

6th.—Marched on 6 miles, the wheels of the gun and waggon becoming rickety from the stony state of the road, lightened them by loading the ammunition boxes on camels. A sepoy died here from the effects of the sun—Encamping ground as yesterday.

7th.—Marched on 12 miles, 5 along the bed of the river, then over some table land, to a drop leap into the river again, down which the gun and carriages were obliged to be lowered by ropes; strong reports reached us of the enemy getting ready to oppose us, and that they were busy getting in their crops. From this encamping ground there are two roads to Kahun, one round by Deerah, distance 74 miles, and the other a short cut, over the mountains of Surtooff and Nuffoosk, distance only 20 miles, but very difficult for guns. Being left to my own judgment by the brigadier, I decided on the short cut, having been over the same road before, with artillery, trusting to arrive in time to save some of the crops.

8th.—Left the bed of the river, and marched over a table land, to the bottom of the Surtooff, distance 6 miles, which took us 5 hours, there being some very bad nullahs on the road for guns. Encamped at the foot of the hill, where we found a beautiful stream of water, and abundance of forage. At 4, P. M. we commenced ascending the hill; the camels going up first; the distance is but a mile, but so steep, that the last camel did not reach the top until day light, exactly 12 hours. The labor of getting up the gun and carriages, was trying and laborious in the extreme; some parts of the hills were almost perpendicular, and not one inch up would the bullocks pull, Here, while all hands were engaged in this labor, the Beloochees began first to show themselves, in small bodies, annoying our flanks and rear.

8th.—Encamped on the top of the hill, but in consequence of there being neither water or forage, obliged to send down all the animals to the bottom again, the men going down by division.

9th.—About 150 Belloochees assembled below the hill, evidently with the intention of attacking the watering party, in consequence of which I reinforced them with 100 men, under Clarke, when they immediately dispersed. Marched on over a fine table land, to the foot of the Nuffoosk Pass at 6 o'clock this evening, distance only 6 miles, but from the number of small nullahs, and the overloaded state of the camels, we did not reach our ground until day light.

10th.—Ascended the Nuffoosk Pass this morning with 100 men. No appearance of an enemy, although we found that they had

built up breastworks across the road, in 3 different places: removed them, and commenced getting up the gun &c. which took us from 6 in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the bullocks being perfectly useless. This was an exceedingly hard days work, the heat being excessive, and a great want of water. In fact, none at all for the cattle. Commenced passing up convoy at 4 P. M., the last camel not reaching the top until 3 A. M., although the distance was only ¼ of a mile; this was caused from the overloaded state of the camels, and there only being one camel-man to 6 and 7. The camels fell down and gave in by dozens, and many bags were dropped; to obtain these last, some 60 Belloochees who had been watching us all day, followed up the rear-guard, when a few shots were exchanged, and Clarke and myself took post with 12 men on some ridges overhanging the road: when the moon went down, the Belloochees made many attempts to get up the Pass, but were easily kept at bay. A great deal of ammunition was wasted, without much effect, from the darkness of the night. This was the third night we had been under arms.

11th.—From the top of the hill we saw several fires in the Kahun plain. Commenced descending at day light. Descent one mile in extent. Immediately the rear-guard left the top, it was crowded by about 60 Beloochees, who commenced a sharp fire, but at a long distance Clarke and myself having remained in the rear, to try and bring on some of the bags dropped, we received some special marks of their favor. One Beloochee appeared to be a particularly good shot, for he managed to wound (slightly) Clarke and his servant, and a havildar, standing close by, was only saved by the ball lodging in a small Mussuck he had slung on his shoulder. We were obliged to put up with this annoyance for some time, being too anxious to get my convoy safe to Kahun, to think of returning up the hill to attack these people. The cattle were almost dying for want of water. By 2 P. M. we got guns and all safe to the bottom, only leaving two bags behind, and encamped for an hour in a strong nulla, clear of the hill. At 5 P. M. moved on *Kahun*, distant 5 miles, over a fine level plain, reaching it at 7, and finding it completely deserted and the gates removed. Thus ended this arduous and trying march, the difficulties we encountered from the nature of the road, being entirely through beds of rivers, and over hills, and the want of water at the latter were great indeed. The heat was excessive, and the bullocks refusing to put their shoulder to the collar, the labour of getting the guns over the hills, fell entirely on the sepoys. The convoy often stretched for 2 miles, so to properly guard it on all sides, was out of the question, but through the strenuous exertions of officers and men, all was got up safe, without loss or damage. Encamped under walls of fort for the night, all hands being completely done up. It was a delightful sight to see the camels and bullocks

rushing to the river. I thought they never would have stopped drinking.

Kahun is a large irregular sex-angular walled town, 900 yards in circumference, with 6 bastions and one gate-way. The walls are about 25 feet high, but so thin in some places, that they are seen through half way down. There is no ditch, but a tank in front of the gate-way, which fills after a heavy fall of rain. The houses inside are in very fair order, they principally belong to the Banyans; the Murrees (with the exception of the chief, his brother, and a few followers,) inhabiting the plains outside, building mat huts in the summer, and retiring to the narrow passes on the hills in the cold weather. The plain on which Kahun is situated, is about 15 miles long and 6 broad. The air is very pure, and heat not nearly so great as it is in the plains.

12th,—Got detachment into fort during the day; found the inside of all the bastions destroyed; some still smoking. A sepoy strolling out without his arms, was cut down within 500 yards of the fort, and his head severed from his body. Clarke, with 20 horsemen, had a long chase after the enemy, but could not touch them, however he sent in information of some grain, still standing; sent out party and secured 50 camel-loads of wheat, in stalk. The party also found the gates* of the fort in a field about 2 miles off.

13th.—During the night, the Belloochees commenced burning the wheat they could not carry away in the day time. Sent out another party, and secured 50 more camel-loads. Commenced clearing out the large well, into which the Belloochees had thrown large logs of timber, and other kinds of lumber. An unfortunate dooly-walla was smothered in going down to fasten on a rope.

14th.—Busy all day in repairing bastions and putting up gate: in the former, found layers of cow-dung, covered over with earth. Some still smoking, and water† seems to have no effect in putting out the fire.

16th.—The return convoy under Clarke, started this morning at 2 A. M. en route to Pollajee. I had received instructions from the brigadier to increase the number of infantry, if I thought it nenessary; I did so, with a subedar's party, consisting of five havildars and 80 rank and file. Clarke took them over the first hill, when, I suppose, finding no opposition at the diff[illegible]t pass of Nufloosk, he sent them back, proceeding on himself w[illegible] the original party, and 700 empty camels. About 12 o'clock a dooly-walla (a dooly and 6 had accompanied the subedar's party,) came

* These gates were afterwards invaluable to us, as also the wheat grass, when no forage was procurable for our horses.

† One bastion took us ten days watering before we succeeded.

running in with the dreadful report that every man of the subedar's party had been massacred! The dooly-walla was the only man who escaped, and his, is the only account we have of this melancholy affair. He says that "the subedar on seeing the last of "the camels over the hill, began to descend on this side, that when "half way down, they all of a sudden saw the top and bottom co-"vered with Belloochees, that the subedar then commenced a "double march, and took up a position on some rising ground, "forming square. The Belloochees, to the number of 2000, then "completely surrounded them, and after receiving 2 vollies rushed "boldly in on them, and began to slaughter them right and left; he "saw the subadar fighting to the last; he himself managed to escape "by hiding in a nullah, where an old Belloochee found him, and "after stripping him of what he had, let him go." The poor subedar was one of the best native officers in the regiment, he belonged to my light company, and was a great favorite of mine. We had been much together during our former campaign in these hills, and I felt his loss very much.

17th.—In great suspense about Clarke and his convoy. A spy came in from the enemy to-day, and was very inquisitive as to what number of men were left to defend the fort &c, put him close prisoner, with orders to shoot him on first approach of enemy. Busy all day strengthening post, the detachment being now reduced, in consequence of this unfortunate affair, to 140 bayonets and one gun, rather too few to man 900 yards of wall; got the gun on bastion next to gate-way.

18th.—About 60 horsemen passed coolly round the fort, at a hand gollop, waving their swords, and giving us much abuse, but taking very good care to keep well out of range of musket-shot, also from the gun side. Offered 150 rupees to any man (follower) in the fort, to take a tapaul down to the plains, but none would venture.

19th, 20th.—All hands during these two days employed in repairing bastions, &c.

21st.—A cossid came in this morning with a note from Lieutenant Vardon, containing the most melancholy intelligence of poor Clarke's death, and the defeat of his party. It would appear that they had [illegible] as far as the bottom of the Surtoff mountain, 13 miles from Kahun, when the Murrees were seen assembled in large numbers at the top. Clarke after placing his convoy, and part of his infantry, to the best advantage round his convoy, proceeded a little way up the hill, with about 30 infantry, to attack the most forward of them, and after fighting most gallantly for 2 hours, the ammunition being all gone, he with the rest of the men who were with him, were all killed. Clarke himself killed 2 of the Belloochees with his own hand, and a third he seized round the waist, dashing

him to the ground, he was then seen to stagger, as if wounded, and some of the Belloochees on another part of the hill, seeing a bugler, Clarke had sent down, bringing up ammunition, called out "now charge them, they are out of cartridges"! they did, and every man fell. The Belloochees then fell on the convoy. The horsemen made for Poollajee at speed, and the rest of our unfortunate sepoys were all massacred, save one havildar and 11 privates. The number of Belloochees present, appears from all accounts, to have been 2,000. The loss they suffered is unknown, and ever will be, they only acknowledge to 25. They secured every camel, tent, &c.

Poor Clarke! Although having only known him for 8 or 9 months, still it was during scenes when months become years, and friendship becomes firm and lasting; we first met in November 1839, when he joined a field detachment (of which I was staff-officer) proceeding against the Belloochees in these same hills. He at this time commanded 150 of the Scinde irregular horse. From the day he joined, he was the life and soul of the party, and, although a stranger to most of us, soon gained the esteem of all. Before he arrived, the country around had been subject to almost daily plundering. Enthusiastically fond of his profession, more particularly of his new command, the horse, he sought daily and hourly opportunities of distinguishing himself. He was, in the opinion of all, the "beau ideal" of an irregular horse-man, brave and daring himself to a degree, he soon inspired his men with the same spirit; men, who were before almost a perfect rabble, became, through his bright example, most excellent soldiers in a short space of time; the men became fond of him to a degree, and with him at their head seemed to think any odds against them, of no moment. During our short campaign of 4 months, he was engaged in every skirmish we had. A few days after he joined, being detached to a post 9 miles off, without information, and perfectly ignorant of the country around, he succeeded in surprising 60 Belloochees plundering some fields, about an hour before day-light; at the time he fell in with them, he had only 10 men up with him, but not hesitating a moment, he dashed in amongst them, killing 7 and taking 3 prisoners, the rest escaping through the thick jungle, again, when the Boogties attacked a party under Lieutenant Raitt in the hills, he distinguished himself greatly, charging through and through the enemy, and killing three with his own hand; on our march up to Kahun, he was of the utmost assistance to me, not only in commanding the rear-guard the whole way up, but in his strenuous exertions throughout; when wounded on the thigh at the last hill, his coolness and courage showed themselves conspicuously, thinking the ball had gone through, (he afterwards described the feeling to be just the same as he felt, when wounded at Kurrachee, when the ball went right through his thigh) he said to me "dont say a word, it has gone right through me, but I do not

"I want to show those fellows their shot has taken effect." To this day the Murrees speak of his bravery, * calling him the "Bura Bhadoor." He now lies buried half way up the Surtoff, thus did the 5th regiment Bombay native infantry lose in one day, killed,

1 Subedar	5 Havildars
1 Jemadar	139 Rank and File.

21st.—Despatched cossid on return to the plains, and knowing the anxiety that would be felt regarding not only our present but future fate, reported to Brigadier Stevenson, my having still 4 months supply of provisions left, and that I would do my utmost to hold the fort.

24th.—Thinking there was not much chance of another convoy coming up, took a strict account of the provisions, putting the men on half rations. All hands busy strenthening the fort, divided detachment into 4 divisions, giving each a side to defend, and obliged to bring every † man on duty at night for fear of a surprise. From this to the 27th busy clearing the ground of every thing in the shape of tree or shrubs for 200 yards round the fort outside.

27th.—An express from Lieutenant Loch to-day, saying, he was coming up with 200 horse, to see what had become of us, and to open the communication. Sent back the cossid immediately to tell him on no account to attempt it, as, if defended, he could never force the Nuffoosk pass, particularly with horse.

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* I have been exceedingly sorry to see in one of the Bombay papers (Courier June 1840) an attack on poor Clarke for rashness in this melancholy affair. The writer could never have seen the country he had to pass thro', or would have abstained from his remarks, which were both unkind and uncalled for, being given merely on the report of an ignorant Belooch Guide; the real truth will perhaps never be known. I mean his reasons for attacking the enemy. But in my humble opinion, for the following reasons I think he was right. From the spot where the fight took place, is 40 miles to the plains, through beds of rivers the whole way, with high rocks on each side. The camels (700) under his charge, would stretch at least 2 miles through these ravines with only 80 infantry and 50 horse and one European officer (himself) how was it possible to guard them at all points, when followed up by some 2000 Beloochees! No! I think it very likely that seeing the hopelessness of getting his convoy safe to the plains, and having too much pride and daring to desert it, to save his party, he not unreasonably thought a check to the enemy at first starting would dishearten and deter them from following him up and there was every chance of success! Until then the Bellochees had never crossed bayonets with the sepoys, and had the utmost dread of them, and from what I have since heard, I firmly believe that had not the bugler been killed bringing up the ammunition and the sepoys with him had had any left, he would have beat them off, altho 30 to 1, the Belloochees never attempted to charge him until they saw that all the ammunition was expended.

† This fatiguing duty continued until the day we left the fort (September 28) and was submitted to by the sepoys, with the utmost cheerfulness.

28th.—This morning, when the foraging party were out, some horsemen were seen prowling about the bed of the river. The "assembly" was sounded, and some 7 or 8 horsemen, more bold than the rest, came within long musket-range, and a sepoy shot one; they then moved off at speed, Erskine getting a long shot and killing another.

29th, 30th, 31st.—Busy cleaning out tank, which had become most offensive, and also commenced digging deep trenches along the foot of the walls inside, planting sharp-pointed stakes in them; pulled down all houses touching the walls to prevent the enemy landing, should they succeed in mounting the walls in overwhelming numbers. This gave them a drop leap of 25 feet on to a body of stakes.

June 3rd.—Heard that the old chief Dadah had tried all in his power to prevent his tribe attacking Clarke's party, and that on their leaving for that purpose, exclaimed. "Ah' there you go, selling your country for 500 camels." Belloochees on the move in every direction but keeping at a respectful distance, prevented in consequence, sending out foraging parties*.

4th.—Commenced digging a fresh well: the other wells containing very bad water, causing bad ulcers on the men, but finding water at all in the fort, was a most fortunate circumstance, as any party sent down to the river, would certainly have been cut up. Received an express from the political agent, intimating that, I must not expect re-inforcements from Sukkur, but that a request had been made to Captain Bean at Quetta to obtain, if possible, the assistance of a tribe called Kabars, inhabiting the hills in the Bolan and deadly enemies of the Murrees.

7th, 8th, 9th.—Nothing new stirring; working parties employed strengthening an old inner fort, which, in case of our being hard pushed, will contain all the supplies, and 2 wells out of the 3. Banyans employed in filling all the empty grain bags with sand. Lascars busy cutting good stout clubs for all the followers; commenced bringing the latter on duty at night, as look-out-men, a fourth part of them being attached to each division. The enemy getting more harrassing daily, firing at every man who appears 200 yards from the walls. Furnished a new bastion on opposite fort for gun. We can now ply it from both sides, having a good road made from one bastion to the other.

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* From this day I was obliged to keep all the cattle inside, allowing the camel men and others to pick up and bring in what forage they could, which was but little. The river which was only a mile off, was almost dry, and the banks were high enough to conceal 1000 Horsemen. It therefore became necessary to use the utmost caution, not being able to afford the loss of a single man.

15th.—Cossids came in this morning, bringing intelligence of the Murrees and Boogtees having agreed to stand by each other, and attack the fort on the approching dark nights with their whole force; got the front of gate-way well palisaded; from this to the 25th nothing new, all working at the defences most cheerfully, and every man seeming to think that the safety of the whole depends on his individual bravery. Treat sepoys kindly, and I do not think they will ever fail at the push, nearly 14 years of uninterrupted regimental duty I think, entitles me to give an opinion on this point, and that before formed, is now fully confirmed.

25th.—An old acquaintance of mine, Sheer Bheg Boogtee, who had acted as guide to us through these hills last year, paid me a visit. I had had the means of showing him some kindness. During the campaign he had been taken prisoner and plundered of many head of cattle; and I, having obtained his release, and clothed him, he has followed me like a shadow ever since.

29th.—No appearance of any night attack as reported, but this morning about 150 Belloochees came sweeping round the fort, unfortunately 20 bullock drivers were out foraging, more than a mile across the river, contrary to my most positive orders. The consequence was, they were cut off, and surrounded by the enemy, who commenced a regular slaughter. Fortunately Erskine managed to screw round the gun, and I threw out about 40 men in the direction, well flanked to 2 bastions. By these means we managed to save 10 out of the 20. A shell from the gun sent the enemy to the right-about, and the party served as a rallying point for those who could manage to escape; one of the latter, who managed to conceal himself under a bush, heard our poor fellows beg for mercy, but Kurreem Khan, the chief, who was superintending the slaughter, kept crying out "Maro, Maro," this all took place in the bed of the river, and was not visible from the fort. He also says, he saw the shrapnell burst right in amongst them, knocking over 3, and dispersing the rest. I had an opportunity this morning of promoting 2 sepoys for bravery. They were out cutting forage near the fort, with some 8 or 10 camel-men, when about 20 Belloochees rode at speed at them. Instead of running for it, the 2 sepoys coolly stood still, and fired into their faces, wounding one of them. This was quite sufficient for the Belloochees, who turned and fled. Had the sepoys retreated under the walls, the camel-men must have been cut up. This morning was full of adventures, nearly lost the only sheep we had left. The Belloochees got between them, and the fort, but were too eager to cut up the camel-men, to see them. They would have been a sad loss to us, for not another could we get.

30th.—Let loose the old spy to-day, tired of keeping him any longer, besides we have neither guards nor food to waste on such

kind of people. He is quite welcome to report to the enemy all he has seen, which is but little.

July 3d.—Sheer Beg again made his appearance agreeably to promise, bringing with him 45 sheep and goats, a most welcome supply, as we were almost reduced to the last goat. The sepoys not having tasted any meat for two months, highly enjoyed the treat; he tells us, that it is the Murrees intention to attack the fort on the night of the 6th instant, when the moon goes down, with 50 scaling ladders. Their Syud having persuaded them that our leaden bullets will not kill, in proof of which he had a bullock placed 100 yards off and had 300 bullets (taken from Clarke's party) fired at it, without effect! This story frightened my naib (a Bellooch) so that he came to me with a most serious face, and begged that I would procure iron bullets for the two first rounds, and that then the Belloochees would run away! These Murrees seem to have a great name amongst the other tribes.

7th.—An express arrived from Captain Bean at Quetta, offering me assistance, and regretting the position in which I was placed, the same post also brought a letter from the political agent at Shikarpoor, to say, it was intended to act on the defensive until the season opens. 50 Belloochee horse-men kicked up a great dust this afternoon. Erskine emptied three of their saddles; they had been snugly hid all day in the river, ready to cut off any parties who ventured outside.

9th.—Getting used to the Belloochees visits. Indeed, we are glad of any thing in the shape of excitement to change the monotonous life we are leading, unfortunately we cannot afford to expend much gun ammunition, we can therefore only take a shot accasionally, which is always a source of great amusement to all in the fort, particularly when it falls in amongst the Belloochees, who retaliate by heaping abuse on us, as they scamper off. Sheer Beg came again to-day bringing a few chillies and sugar for which he obtained enormous prices, no doubt he is a spy in a small way, but being the only face we see, save the cossids who are decided spies, he is too useful to quarrel with, he puts me in mind of the old beggar Edee in the antiquary, whenever he makes his appearance the word is passed from bastion to bastion, and all the fort turns out to meet him, being delighted to see him, not only for old acquaintance, but for the few trifles he always brings. The camels are now beginning to break up for want of grain and forage. Ditto gun bullocks, shot 5 of the former this evening, in consequence of their being in a dying state.

11th.—About 200 head of cattle going across the plain about a mile and a half off most tempting but very suspicious, but the first we have seen. It is no doubt a trap, no doubt plenty of horsemen are in the bed of the river, ready to cut in between the party and

the fort, if we sallied out; sepoys mad to go after them, perhaps they will come a little nearer by and by, and give us an opportunity.

13th.—An express arrived from Lehree with intelligence, that instead of the Kojucks and Kahars coming to our assistance, the former had joined the Murrees against us, and that the latter had attacked Captain Bean himself at Quetta on the 22d ultimo. They excuse themselves from attacking the Murrees until September, on account of the great heat! It is fortunate that we did not depend on these allies.

14th.—Men suffering very severely from ulcers, upwards of 90 of all ranks laid up with them, and several not able to put on their belts in consequence, still they all manage to go to their posts at night, although several cannot stand sentry. The doobee-walas, camel-men and bullock-drivers now became useful, having gone through a kind of drill.

18th.—A tremendous storm of wind and rain, lasting the whole night, thought the old fort was going to be washed away, at day break got all hands to work, to drain the fort, the water having lodged in every direction and threatening to undermine the walls. Tank filled, and country around completely flooded.

25th.—At 12 o'clock to-day about 200 horsemen came galloping round the fort at a quick pace, thought at first they were going to asssault the fort, after a shell or two, they retreated, they have now become very cunning, and instead of appearing in a large body as formerly, they now sail along "Indian File" like a flock of wild ducks, and it is very seldom we can get a shot at them. In the afternoon they were seen cultivating the fields in all directions quite an enlivening scene.

26th.—A horse was this morning found dead where Erskine's shell fell yesterday, so it is to be hoped there was some mischief done amongst the enemy; at the time there was so much dust that we could not see any distance. The Belloochees have now completely surrounded the fort. Little parties like pickets, appearing seated around in every direction. This looks bad for our communication; as yet the tapaul has arrived pretty regularly once in 8 days, and has been a source of great amusement to us; much fever is now prevailing amongst us, myself attacked, and Glasse is also very sick. The sepoys and followers are coming into hospital as many as 6 and 7 a day. Beloochees advancing closer and closer every day, their matchlocks I really believe carry twice as far as our muskets. From this to the 6th August nothing new. The

same daily routine of duty, with generally a "fall" in every 12 hours. Laid up with fever, and prevented writing.*

Aug. 6th—The men still continue very sickly, 33 in hospital with fever. Glasse is very unwell, and unable to leave his bed. Out of the most useful medicines hot water the order of the day found to be a very good substitute, being of a very purgative nature; made a kind of truce with a Murree chief called Hybutt Khan, who acknowledged himself the owner of most of the flocks grazing around, also of some of the land now being cultivated. He told us to look out for Lall Khan and some 150 of his people, a day or two hence.

7th.—Beloochees on the "qui vive," fired two shots at us, as we were taking our walk in front of the gate-way. Hybutt Khan wants 40 Rupees to take a tapaul to Lehree. He is evidently a doubtful character, and thinks to take us in; refused to sell us one sheep.

8th.—Had a slight skirmish this morning with Beloochees; when taking our walk, some Beloochees appeared about the nulla, evidently up to mischief; enticed them out with a few men, when 50 or 60 of them immediately sprung up, and a little file-firing commenced; withdrew party to allow Erskine to have a shot, which fell into the midst of them, whether with any damage or not, we know not, the jungle being so thick, however they immediately bolted at their best pace. †

9th.—Beloochees up to some mischief at the Nufoosk pass, going up there in small bodies of 20 and 30 destroying the road up I suspect.

10th.—For the last 4 or 5 days the flocks had been coming closer and closer to the walls, eating up what little grass there was left. I had warned Hybutt Khan of this 3 or 4 times, and had also offered to purchase 100 at his own price, but he declared I should not have one. Erskine and myself had finished the last but one, of those we procured from old Sheer Bheg. We have both excellent appetites, although shut up in a fort. To-day, 2 large flocks of sheep and goats came most temptingly near, and

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* We did not see another cossid until the 15th August, some 20 days, during which time we were perfectly ignorant of everything going on in the plains, and we had no means of sending a tapaul, as not a man could be persuaded to leave the fort.

† I have since heard from one who was then in the Murree hills, that this was an intended attack on the fort, and that Lall Khan with 500 men was close by at the time, intending to rush into the gate-way after us, as we retreated in, but that hearing the gun which the Syud had agreed to render harmless for that morning, and seeing the effect of the 2 shells thrown by Erskine (15 Murrees were killed & wounded by them) they gave up the dea.

the sepoys earnestly entreated for some fresh meat; watching our opportunity (no Beloochees being then in sight) we slipped out about 30 sepoys, flanking them with 2 bastions filled with men, and Erskine got the gun round to bear in the direction. There were only 3 Beloochees just then in charge; they immediately ran off for their lives, and the goats, by some instinct, and to our great annoyance, followed them at speed, like dogs. Two horsemen then came up, looking very fierce, but soon rode off on getting a shot. To describe the delight of all on getting this flock inside the fort is impossible, there was a perfect uproar; on counting our plunder we found we had secured 300 sheep * and 57 goats, most of the latter were milk goats, so that the highest castes shared the enjoyment; we immediately made a division of the whole, charging ¼ Rupee on the head of each, for the benefit of the widows of those who fell on the 16th May. That evening the fort became one large cook-shop.

10th.—Hybutt Khan came to-day to try and recover his sheep; told us, Nusseer Khan had driven all our detachments in to Sukkur; also brought a note from Dodah, the Chief, desiring us to leave his fort forthwith, and that he and his army would escort us down to the plains! When Hybutt found he could not get back his sheep, being told that most of them were already killed, he flew into a great rage, and declared he would come and attack the fort, for which threat I told the sentry to give him a shot, when he quickly departed.

15th.—A cossid, to our great joy, came in this morning after a lapse of 20 days; could have hugged the old rascal, although I knew him to be the greatest of spies. A letter arrived by him from the Political Agent saying, it was contemplated to try and throw in supplies, through the agency of Jeytt Sing,† and Meer Hussain, to save moving the troops up with a convoy.

16th.—Another cossid this morning. The system mentioned yesterday of throwing in supplies discarded, being found impracticable; and the welcome, most welcome intelligence of the following detachment leaving Sukkur for our relief;

Detachment of H. M. 40th Regiment,		
1st Grenadiers,	4	Guns,
2nd ditto,	200	Horse,

* These sheep were a great addition to the half rations: the latter alone being but poor food for men working all day and on guard every night.

† Jeytt Sing is a Shikarpore merchant, immensely rich, and has great sway with all the Beloochees around, our loss is always his certain gain; he buys back our stolen camels for 15 or 20 rupees, and sells them again to our commissariate for 50 or 60 Rs! a positive fact. Meer Hussain, I am almost positive, was the cause of poor Clarke being attacked, and it is fully proved it was he who led Major Clibborn's watering party into the ambuscade. I hope he will yet meet with the punishment he deserves.

under the command of Major Clibborn, 1st grenadiers; received intimation that it was arranged between Hybutt Khan and the rest of the chiefs, that the former, in making a truce, should encourage us to go out foraging, and then cut us up.

17th.—Two Beloochees disarmed a sepoy most beautifully to-day; he was sitting down, and had placed his musket and pouch-box a little on one side; the two Beloochees dashed up at speed, dismounted, picked up the musket, &c. before the sepoy could jump up, and went off, waving their booty in triumph. A sharp touch of an earthquake to-day.

18th.—A little skirmish with the Beloochees outside, tried to draw them on towards the fort, but failed.

20th.—Six Beloochees made a dash around the fort on a plundering expedition; captured 3 Banyan's donkeys. The same animals have now been stolen and re-captured 3 different times.

21st.—Received a message from Dodah's brother, to take care of ourselves, as the whole body of them would assemble 10* days hence and put us all to the sword.

24th.—Another cossid arrived to-day, bringing the welcome intelligence of the convoy being actually on their march up, with a reduced detachment—having left behind detachment 40th—all but the light company 2d grenadiers, and one gun. To describe the joy of all hands, on my immediately giving out this news, is impossible. Those only who have suffered a four month's imprisonment, with the addition of never lying down to sleep without a chance of having to turn out for an attack, can conceive it.

28th.—Received the following amusing information from Hybutt Khan: "About 2 months ago, their Syud, in whom they place great faith, having agreed to render our gun and muskets harmless, the whole of the tribe under Lall Khan † and Dulleel Khan, assembled to attack the fort; in the mean time, they got information from one of our cossid spies, that we were at work from morning till night, and had built up 2 extra forts inside, and had also dug a well under the gate-way. Upon hearing this, the Syud had a most convenient dream, declared he would have nothing to do with the business, and strongly recommended no

* This turned out but too true, so far as regards the assemblage of the whole tribe to a day, as on the 31st, exactly 10 days, the fight of Nuffoosk took place.

† An amusing anecdote is told of this chief When assisting in getting one of the guns left by Major Clibborn, up the pass, it slipt back and smashed one of his limbs, which caused his death a fortnight after,—when dying, he called some of his people around him, and warned them never to go near our guns, as "sleeping or waking they would always be their destruction." This chief was a grand limb lopped off the Murree tribe, being their greatest leader—He lost his only son in Clarke's fight.

attack. On this the tribe immediately broke up". This agrees with the report mentioned on the 3d July. Hybutt also told us, that the Murrees are now * assembled to the number of 3000, behind the hill N. E. of the fort; and that they intend to have 3 fights with the coming convoy, for the honor of their land—1st, at the pass of Nufoosk,—2nd, where they now are,—and then, if beaten by us in both, to fall back on Meer Hadjee's fort of Barkoe, where they will fight to the last.

29th.—Captured 2 bullocks, which we found a great treat, not having tasted beef for a long time. The convoy can now be only 2 marches off, cheering news!

31st —A day of great and almost overpowering excitement. It commenced about 5 o'clock last evening, when the plains and hills became alive with Beloochees, and at dark, large signal fires on the tops of all the hills. At day-break, large parties of horse and foot were seen hurrying across the plain to the Nuffoosk pass, on the opposite side of which, we soon learnt of the arrival of our convoy, from the report of one of their guns, a signal agreed upon between us ; about sun-rise, we saw collected on the very top of the pass about 2000 Beloochees, and others prowling about in all directions, the distance, as the crow flies from the fort to the pass, is about 4 miles; in fact, we were completely behind the scenes, and saw all that the Beloochees were at, and fully expecting to see our comrades crown the top every hour, we were highly amused and excited—2 P. M. no sight of convoy coming over pass, they must be repairing the road up—3† P. M. saw the shrapnell flying over the hill, and bursting in the midst of the enemy with the most beautiful effect—5 P. M. still no sight of convoy. Beloochees still crossing the plains towards the seat of action. Erskine scattered a small body of them with a shell—8 P. M. heavy firing of guns and musketry for 10 minutes, when all was silent for the rest of the night. I should be very sorry to pass many days of my life like this—I would ten thousand times sooner have been in the thick of it; the excitement and suspense was beyond any thing I ever felt before; knowing the difficulty of the pass, and not seeing our people crown the top, I felt certain there must be much bloodshed going on ‡

* Altho' I did not place much credit on this information, thinking it a bit of bravado, yet I much wished to send it to Clibborn, but had no means.

† Between 2 and 3 o'clock the fight of Nuffoosk commenced.

‡ I have since heard some surprize has been expressed that we could *see* and *hear* Clibborn's shells, and not rush out to his succour! had we done so the labor and perseverance of 4 months would have been thrown away in an hour, and the Beloochees would have gained the *very* object they had been trying for without effect, since the day we entered the fort, namely, to entice us out, but the thing was out of the question. Between us and the pass were

Sept. 1st.—Not a single Beloochee to be seen on the top of the hill at day-light ; but several passing across the plain in that direction. No sight or sound of convoy all day ! Sadly perplexed to know what has become of them; conclude that finding the pass too strongly defended yesterday, that they had fallen back to go round by the Deeyrah road, as I first recommended.

2d—Bellochees in all directions, and busy as bees—Another day of suspense and excitement ; after 11 o'clock they pitched one of our sepoy's tents about half way up the hill, up and down which, batches of loaded and unloaded camels are going; suppose the convoy must have dropped some of their baggage and stores in the hurry of their departure. About 12 o'clock much firing commenced and continued with intervals until 2 P. M.; from the sound, it would appear the convey had fallen back in the direction of the Deeyrah road, some 20 miles; cannot now expect to see them for the next 6 or 7 days ; tantalizing, when they were so close; not a drop of spirits, a cheroot or a cup of tea left, or have we indeed tasted any for some time ; sepoys very weak from short rations, only 6 bags of flour left, a bad look-out ; cannot help thinking of our having got our convoy over so snugly in May, when we had only a third of the number of the present convoy.

3rd.—Still in suspense; no communication from out-side ; all on the look-out, particularly at night ; upwards of 100 loaded camels going across the plain being some distance off; whether these are horses or camels cannot be clearly ascertained without a glass ; persuaded the people in the fort that they were the former, altho' the sepoys made the shrewd remark, that they never saw horsemen look so large, or go along one after the other, so regularly. About 20 horsemen with 8 or 10 spare horses came down from the hill to water near the fort, looks as if the owners of the latter had been killed,—2 bodies carried across the plain *on charpoys*, with a kind of funeral party following them; suppose they are two chiefs. At 3 P. M. saw a large body of Belloochees pitching a sort of camp within 1½ mile of the fort, no mistaking our sepoy's tents, also one officer's tent, 5 of the former and 1 of the latter, exactly the number they took from Clarke's party, trust they are those only, but appearances are very suspicious. Just as it was getting dark, saw the whole body assembled in one dense mass, in front of their tents ; warned all hands to keep a bright look-out when the moon goes down.

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4 miles of plain, ¼ of a mile, one of the most dangerous ravines I ever passed thro'; a mountain a mile in extent and last tho' not least, 2000 Beloochees ! I might perhaps have mustered 100 bayonets, but must have left some 40 sick behind; but the best reason of all is, that it was not until the 7th September (8 days afterwards) when we first saw the guns in the enemy's hands, that we had the slightest idea of the disaster that had taken place. Up to that date we anxiously looked out to see the convoy coming round the Deeyrah road, thinking they had found the Nuffoosk pass too difficult.

4th.—To-day some horsemen came and informed us "that they "had cut up our convoy, taken the guns and all the stores and "supplies, and had killed all the sahib-log except 3, who were pri-"soners in their camp"—in proof of which assertion they offered to show the guns to any person I chose to send, who could also bring a chit from the prisoners.—This offer however I refused, firmly believing the report to be altogether untrue, and made with a view of getting hold of one of my people for information. They also said, that if I would leave the fort and go to the plains, they would not molest me—We had a very heavy fall of rain about 4 P. M.—More tents springing up in the Murree camp: about 300 Belloochees seated on a rising ground on one flank—great amusement in watching their movements; having a good glass, we could almost see into their very tents.

5th.—A person came under the fort calling out, wishing to give us the news; had had already quite enough of these people's stories, so sent a bullet or two after him, to hurry his departure—all in the fort sadly perplexed to know what to think of affairs—Belloochees on the move in every direction—100 passed this morning in the Deeyra direction, the road from which we are expecting the convoy—the Belloochees do not seem in good spirits, not like men who have destroyed a large convoy—there has evidently been mischief some where—a storm occurred about 4 o'clock, which to our great delight, blew down all the Belloochee tents; they however soon had them up again.

6th.—No grain left for camels or bullocks, and little or no forage—they must take their chance, poor creatures; nothing now left but a few bags of rice and 3 or 4 of flour—10 bags of the latter, which were thrown aside as being half sand, now came into use, and were greedily devoured by the sepoys—a camel-man shot himself, being detected in a theft.

7th.—Half expected, on taking a look at the Belloochee camp this morning, to find them all decamped; but a sad reverse met our sight—The three guns belonging to the convoy staring us in the face! they are placed on a piece of rising ground on one flank of their camp, their muzzles pointed towards the fort. What can have become of Major Clibborn and his convoy! Many officers and men must have lost their lives before they gave up the guns! There is no doubt now that something most disastrous must have occurred, and we must prepare for the worst. Sepoys keep up their spirits amazingly well, not the slightest sign of flinching, altho' they seem to be aware, that their situation is rather perilous, luckily they cannot see the guns with the naked eye, on account of the jungle. There are chances in our favor yet, and that the guns will not be of much use to them. 1st, they may be spiked. 2ndly, they may have no ammunition, and lastly,

they know not how to load or fire them; luckily they are howitzers instead of field pieces; 10 A. M. all the Belloochees are assembled round the guns, and peeping into their muzzles, quite playthings to them.

8th.—Small parties of horsemen prowling all round the fort; watching us I suppose, knowing we must soon take to flight for want of provisions; they need not be in such a hurry, as we have still some rice and gun bullocks left.

9th,—Loaded camels still going across the plain, 2 Belloochees mounted on artillery horses; no mistaking them from their size and their having blinkers on, which they were determined should not escape our sight, as they galloped up and down in front of the fort for an hour.

10th.—Our old friend Sheer Bheg came in this morning, but in such a suspicious manner, that I put him prisoner; he tells us, the Belloochee's report of having destroyed our convoy is all true; he mentions poor Raitt and Moore as being two of the killed.

11th.—Made some horsemen, who were grazing their horses rather too close, scamper off, and received much abuse from them for my pains. The Murrees acknowledge to their having had 80 killed and 80 wounded in the fight. Our old acquaintance Hybutt Khan and his son are, it is stated, both killed, also Kurreem Khan, who superintended the slaughter on the 29th June.

12th.—Saw a very pleasing sight this morning; nothing more or less than the Murrees moving away the guns; they appear to be taking them to pieces and away. This looks very much like a bolt on their part. Perhaps they have got intelligence of another convoy coming up. Belloochees rather quiet; allowed 2 camelmen to loote them of 3 mares out grazing. 160 killed and badly wounded, will make a hole in their tribe.

13th.—About 1 A. M. a great noise and many fires in the direction of the Murree camp. At day-light not a single tent to be seen, but loaded camels going off by dozens. The Murrees are all off, and our eyes are no longer made sore by the sight of the convoy's guns; every one delighted beyond measure; this is quite a reprieve.

14th.—Sent off Sheer Bheg with a message to Major Clibborn, to say, we were all well in the fort. This is the first opportunity that has offered of sending any thing in the shape of a letter since the 26th ultimo; captured 2 camels this morning with the C. D. mark fresh upon them, no doubt from whence they came! Feel the want of a drop of spirits or a cup of tea most sadly, when keeping watch at night. Water (and such water too!) is but cold comfort.

17th.—About 12 o'clock last night a cossid arrived with an official letter from the Brigade Major at Sukkur,* informing us of the full particulars of Major Clibborn's disaster, and leaving me to my own resources, it being found impossible to send me any further relief. Well, this decides the matter at once. The number of sick, and the weakly state of the rest of the detachment, give little chance of escape by a night march, and I do not suppose the Murrees will agree to any terms I may offer. Put the best face we could on the matter, and on making a calculation, find we can last out until the 15th October on ¼th rations, and the gun bullocks. Decided on holding out, unless we get honorable terms. Perhaps something will turn up in the mean time, and if it come to the worst, we must try and make our way down to the plains. Replied to the Brigade Major in comformity with decision, not allowing the cossid to enter into the fort, knowing he would not have the most cheering news for the people inside; sepoys in excellent spirits, altho' well aware that there is some mischief in the wind; from this to the 22d instant, nothing extraordinary occurred.

23rd.—Sheer Bheg returned from the plains to-day, but without any reply to my letter, having had it taken from him. He tells me that "Dodah sent twice to him, immediately after the fight, "knowing he had access to the fort, to say he should be happy to "make any terms with me, as long as I would leave his fort; and "that he had sent 2 people to me, but that I would not listen to "them, firing upon and driving them away." The Bellooch who came on the 5th, and whom we treated so roughly, must have been one of these peaceable messengers! Well, this seems an opening for obtaining favorable terms, particularly as old Dodah has made the first advances; and knowing the impossibility of holding the post much longer for want of supplies, I opened a communication with the chief, Sheer Bheg, and my naib being the bearers of the following proposal.

"Dodah Murree, I'll give you back your fort, on conditions, "viz, that you give me personal security for my safe arrival in "the plains; if not, I will remain here 2 months longer, having "provisions for that time."

24th.—The deputation returned, informing me, that on receiving the communication, the whole of the chiefs had assembled together, and after some consideration, took a solemn oath on the Koran, that if I would leave the fort in 3 days, they would protect me from all opposition down to the plains, ending by saying that, "whatever my wishes were, should be their law." 2 hours afterwards, a cossid brought a letter from Dodah himself, in

* Copy of which is attached.

answer to mine, containing an agreement on oath, to my proposal; he said, he would send his nephew to pay his respects to me, and to see the agreement conformed to by all his people.

25th.—Replied to Dodah's letter, to the effect, that I would give up the fort 3 days hence, on the above terms. Surprized at their letting us off so easily, namely, simply to return to the plains without let or hindrance from his people, on condition of giving up the fort, which Dodah must well know we cannot hold a month longer; plenty of room to suspect treachery, but we must run the risk. This evening Guamaul Khan came near the fort, and sent a message to say, that he feared to venture inside, but that if I would meet him outside without my troops, he would ratify the agreement. Wishing at once to see whether it was to be "treachery, or no treachery," I agreed, and with Erskine and 4 native officers, met him about a mile from the fort. I never saw a man in such a fright in my life. Altho' he had 30 horsemen, armed to the teeth, and there were only 6 of us, he retreated twice before he would venture near us! He thought from our coming alone, there must be treachery; that some men were hidden somewhere; even after we had met, he had his horse all ready close by for a start. Down we all sat in a circle. A wild scene; his followers appeared to be exceedingly well armed and all fine stout built men. After compliments &c. the nephew began to talk very reasonably. He expressed a hope that "there would now be "a lasting peace between his tribe and the British; that they had "only fought at the Nuffoosk pass to save their country, and their "lives; that it was the least they could do, when they had the "fate of Bejahkhan staring them in the face. That they had "never killed any of our people after the fight, and that all the "prisoners had been fed, clothed, and set free." He concluded by saying that "he should remain near the fort until we left, "to prevent any disturbances between his people and mine; and "that he would furnish me with trustworthy guides down." There was not the slightest appearance of treachery. Thus ended this most interesting conference. It will not, I think, be easily forgotten by either Erskine or myself. So much depended on it, the fate of ourselves and the whole of the detachment. We found these Belloochees the most civil and polite of men! the confidence we placed in their word, by meeting them in the way we did, seemed to please them much, and from having been deadly enemies for 5 long months, became in one hour the best of friends; no doubt their joy was just as great in getting rid of us, as our's was in obtaining our freedom.

26th & 27th.—Most delightfully employed in preparing for a start; only 10 public camels left, and those as thin as rats; none here procurable—the number of sick amounts to 40, and these require 20! Then there are the rations, ammunition, both gun and musket,

water and tents. In fact, found I could not move without sacrificing *all* private property and half the ammunition and tents; obliged to call on officers and men to give up what private camels they had—this was most willingly agreed to; and all kit, even to our bedding, was left behind—the gun ammunition I was obliged to take, as I rather expected opposition from the Boogties, through whose country we had 40 miles to go. At first we were almost afraid we should not be able to bring down the gun from the wretched state of the bullocks, and weakness of the men—however we determined to try; and leaving the waggon and forge-cart behind, picked out 30 of the best, for the gun alone—the sepoys thinking we were going to leave it behind, came and begged me not, as they themselves would drag it down and defend it with their lives! When Erskine was burning the forge-cart and waggon, the Belloochees outside thought we were setting fire to the fort, and sent to beg us to spare it.

28th.—Turned our backs on Kahun this morning at 2 o'clock. Much trouble in getting off, in consequence of the number of sick: obliged to tie some of the poor fellows on the camels—commenced the assent of the big hill at 6, and after immense fatigue and labour, got the gun to the top by 2 P. M. The sepoys were regularly overpowered with fatigue half way up—the call for water now was dreadful, all that I had brought with me in the mussucks being expended. About 9 o'clock about 300 Belloochees had assembled in our front, rear and right flank, perched on the top of the hills; they seemed highly amused at our getting the gun up: but when they saw the sepoys completely done up with thirst and fatigue, they called out "ah! you will never get the gun down to the plains, you had better give it to old Dodah."—I offered them money to show us some water, they said they would for 1,000 Rupees! After some talk they agreed to show us some for 100 Rupees, which was immediately given them,—there was just enough to give each man a handful or so, and then they set to, and got the gun up. I really thought at one time we must have left it behind. At the very top of the pass were about 50 of Hybutt Khan's followers; these men swore we should not go any further, until we had paid for the flock of sheep we captured on the 13th August; however when it came to the point, and seeing the gun too close, to be pleasant, they thought better of it, and begged a few rupees for Hybutt Khan's family, who they said, were very poor; it was as much as I could do to restrain myself from giving this party a round of grape. It's well I did not perhaps, as it would most likely have embroiled me with the rest of the tribe, and my detachment was not in much of a fighting condition! It was now 4 P. M. and we had still to descend the Nuffoosk pass to some water; which our Murree guide reported was in abundance 3 miles from the bottom, in consequence of much rain having fallen.

Commenced descending, when a spectacle, the most horrible to be conceived, met our sight: the bodies of all our poor fellows, both officers and men, who fell on the 31st August, lying* unburied with all their cloathes on! having been merely dragged off the road—Raitt's body was the first, being almost on the top of the pass; through this dreadful scene, we had to lower our gun down the hill, inch by inch—I would have given worlds to have buried the poor fellows, but this was out of the question: we had then been 14 hours under arms, and had still to seek for water; besides which, we had no intrenching tools. The bodies were lying on heaps, which shows what a bitter fight it must have been. The Murrees spoke highly of poor Raitt's bravery in being at the head of all; they had buried all their own dead at the bottom of the hill, but although I offered them any money they chose to ask, they refused to bury our's, in consequence of the state of decomposition they were then in. After much labour, got the gun down the hill and proceeded on along the table land until 7 o'clock, when we found water in abundance, in a deep water course, on the bank of which we bivouaced for the night. Altho' the men had had no food all day, they all (save the pickets) immediately fell asleep, without tasting a bit, they had been 19 hours under arms, the 1st bugle having been sounded at 12 last night. Had this water been found when the fight of the 31st took place, what a different tale would have been told!

29th.—Marched this morning to the top of the Surtoff mountain, 4 miles, descended hill, lowering gun down with drag ropes; reached bottom at 10 o'clock; on examining one of the gun wheels, found the iron work of the axle-tree box split in several places, to all appearance it seemed impossible to repair it, or that the gun could travel any further; but Erskine, by great exertions, got it bound up, and on we went again, starting at 2 P. M., but did not reach our ground until 10, having lost the road, and got jammed in between ravines—I should have wished to have made only one march a day, in consequence of the weak state of the men, but there was no help for it, on we must go, night as well as day, having only 2 days provisions with us. Here no water was procurable, luckily the sepoys were so done up, that they soon fell asleep, and forgot all about their thirst. Received an express from the Assistant Political Agent, warning us to expect opposition from the Boogties, in whose country we are now in, not in much of a fighting train, half the men being on camels, but with the gun I think we have not much to fear from them.

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* Since writing this, I am happy to say, I have succeeded in getting all our poor comrades buried—their remains now lie in one large grave in the ground on which they fought so gallantly—Mundoo Khan, the nephew of Begah Khan, accomplished this desired object for me, in which he was assisted by some of the Murrees engaged in the fight.

30th.—Started at 5 A. M. and arrived at 10, at a beautiful stream of water—on this march I was obliged to throw away all the ammunition, save a few rounds of grape, otherwise I must have left 8 or 10 sick behind—men and camels regularly gave in during this march, and how we got all safe up, I hardly know—Remaining with the rear-guard, I cheered them on as well as I could—one poor fellow died on the camel's back. Our Murree guide, who had behaved as yet very well, did an act of extraordinary kindness for a Bellooche; hearing that one of our people was left behind for want of carriage to bring him on, he went back of his own accord, mounted him on his horse, and brought him into camp, walking himself by his side. From this ground, sent off an express by our Murree guide, (the only man who would venture) to Pollojee, for some spare camels and gun bullocks, and we proceeded on another 8 miles at 4 A. M., getting to some water about 10 o'clock.

October 1st.—Started at 3 A. M. and marched on 8 miles—soon after our arrival, to our great delight, up came our Murree guide, with some Sinde horse, spare camels and gun bullocks—proceeded on to Pollajee at 4 P. M., reaching that post at 12, distance 14 miles; on coming out of the hills into the plain, fired off our howitzer to give notice to our friends at Lehree the head quarters of the 5th Regiment, of our safe arrival.

Thus after a detention of 5 months in the fort of Kahun, was our escape from that position and the Murree hills, accomplished. The hardships and privations circumstances forced on us, were most cheerfully borne with by all. After the attack on Major Clibborn's party, it often appeared impossible to expect a release, yet not a murmur was heard. On no one occasion had I to find fault with the men, and the alacrity and cheerfulness with which they performed the exceedingly onerous duties which I was forced to exact, reflects, in my humble opinion, great credit on the Kalee (5th) Pultan and small detachment of Artillery. Of the constant aid afforded me on every occasion by Lieut. Erskine and Dr. Glasse, I *note* nothing; it can never cease to be fresh in my memory; and their rank is too near my own to admit of my saying all I could wish, or they deserve, even in this my private journal.

To

CAPTAIN L. BROWN,
Commanding Kahun.

SIR,

Ere' this letter reaches you, if it ever should reach, you will probably have heard the sad and disastrous misfortune that has befallen the detachment under the command of Major Clibborn, 1st Grenadier Regiment, which was despatched on the 31st ultimo, for the purpose of relieving your worn-out-men, and throwing a new garrison into Kahun, with provisions for two months.—At the pass of Nuffoosk, after some hours spent in desperate attempts, to crown the heights, and after severe fighting until noon, after hours of patient perseverance against raging thirst, from the want of water, and the utmost efforts of men determined to carry out the objects for which they were destined, and the loss of four officers killed and one severely wounded, Major Clibborn, with the only chance of saving the remnant of his enfeebled troops by falling back for water, was under the painful necessity of deciding on the abandonment of your brave detachment in Kahun. Under these circumstances I am directed by Major Forbes to state, that all attempts to relieve you have failed—there are neither troops, followers, or supplies or carriage for another expedition in your favor; and being under the painful necessity of leaving you, after having done all in his power, to your own resources, your post has become untenable, and he begs you to act in any way, either by a rapid night march, or if so fortunate, by making any terms you can possibly conclude with the enemy—He begs you to act for yourself in the best way you can possibly manage, and he fully authorizes any agreement or arrangement that may enable you to bring your detachment and your companies safely to the plains.

I have, &c.

CAMP, SUKKUR; 7th *September* 1840.

(Signed) J. DOWN,
Brigade Major.

Major General Brooks has the highest gratification in publishing to the Troops composing the Field Army, the following extract of a letter from the Secretary to Government of India, expressing the high approbation of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, of the gallantry, cheerfulness and prudence which characterized the proceedings of Captain Brown, 5th Regiment Native Infantry, in his late defence of Kahun, as well as the considerable support afforded him by his gallant Companions in Arms, Lieut. Erskine of the Artillery, Assistant Surgeon Glasse, and the Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers

and Privates of the Artillery and 5th Regiment Native Infantry, composing his garrison.

The Major General feels satisfied that every individual of the Field Army will be delighted to find that the merits of these brave Men have been so honorably noticed by the highest authority in this country.

Extract Para. 2d of a letter No. 1133, *dated the 9th November* 1840, *received from T. H. Maddock, Esq, Secretary to the Government of India.*

Para. No. 2.—In the mean time His Lordship in Council will not withhold his expression of his high approbation of the eminent gallantry, cheerfulness, and prudence which characterized the proceedings of Captain Brown, in the critical situation in which he was placed, and of the admirable manner in which he appears to have been supported by those who were serving under him. He requests you to communicate this opinion to the Major General Commanding in Upper Sinde, who will convey it accordingly to Captain Brown, and to the Officers and Men of his Detachment.

(Signed) W. KNYVETT,
Assistant Political Agent.

To
CAPTAIN L. BROWN,
5th Regiment Native Infantry.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commander in Chief, to assure you, that he has watched with deep interest your proceedings at Kahun.

The judgment, perseverance and skill you displayed in keeping possession of the post for so long a period, under circumstances of unusual trial and difficulty, in his Excellency's opinion redound in every way to your reputation as an Officer, and to the infinite credit of those serving under you.

The Commander in Chief therefore hastens by the earliest means at his disposal, to mark the high sense he entertains of your high services on the occasion, to appoint you a Brigade Major on the establishment of the Force now assembled in Sinde, vacant by the promotion of Major Boscawen, Her Majesty's 40th Regiment, an appointment which, however inadequate it may be considered as the result of your meritorious conduct, will, His Excellency hopes, be viewed by you as a testimony of his approbation.

(Signed) J. W. MACMAHON, Capt.
Military Secretary.

Head Quarters, Bombay, 21st Nov. 1840.